



SADC RISDP 2020 – 2030

How will SMALLSCALE FARMERS benefit in the Region?
PSA, Policy Brief No. 2, February 2022



act:onaid



With Financial Support from



Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
South African Government
National Office for Policy and Evaluation



SADC former front line States leaders



SADC member states as of 2022

Cover images: SADC RISDP 2030, Emmanuel Justine (ESAFF).

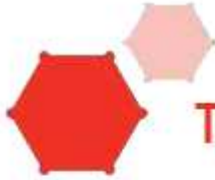


Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. SADC at a Glance	3
3. The SADC RISDP 2020-30	5
4. SADC RISDP 2030 Implementation Matrix	7
5. Agriculture in the RISDP 2030	8
6. Expected Outputs and Benefits to Smallholder Farmers in SADC	12
7. SADC RISDP 2030; Structure, Funding, Reporting, Participation	15
8. Policy Recommendations	16
References	17



1 Introduction

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), established in 1980, launched its ambitious strategic development plan amid the COVID-19 pandemic to redress poverty and food insecurity; improve regional integration, boost infrastructure and ensure socio-political stability becomes a sustainable reality.

The Region witnessed increased hunger and malnutrition on the one hand and, on the other, overweight and obesity. SADC's food insecure population stood at **50.6 million** in October 2021, excluding Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles.

Despite governments' efforts to stop COVID-19 by implementing hard lockdowns, curfews, restrictions to public meetings vaccination roll-out, the pandemic hurt economies, trade and access to food. In addition, the Region has been prone to climatic conditions since El Nino, 2014/15, particularly floods, droughts, cyclones, pests, and disease outbreaks. Further, sanctions against Zimbabwe, wars in eastern DRC Congo, Islamic extremists' activity reportedly in northern Mozambique, socio-economic protests in South Africa - making it the protest capital of the world, civil unrest in eSwatini and Lesotho derail efforts towards regional stability.

So, the question begs: Will the SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020 - 2030 ensure prosperity and alleviate poverty and hunger in Southern Africa?

This policy document examines the SADC 10-year Strategic Plan, approved by the SADC Head of States, August 2020. The plan outlines 24 objectives and 49 outcomes and represents an ambitious attempt to explain how SADC can contribute to the regional integration agenda and move towards the SADC Vision 2050.

2050 is grounded in SADC's original vision of *"a common future, a future in a regional community that will ensure economic wellbeing, improvement of the standards of living, quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the peoples of Southern Africa"*. (SADC 2020)

This paper also explores **regional policies and strategies** in agriculture sector development. For example, it examines the Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (the right to food), Regional Agriculture Development and Advisory Extension Service Strategy and the Rural Agriculture Production Clusters. These strategies promote agroecology, farmer-managed seed systems, gender-sensitive services, and GMOs' imposition in Southern Africa. It also focuses on the SADC RISDP agriculture sector and examines how it could benefit smallholder farmers in the Region.

Finally, the paper offers policy recommendations to include the meaningful participation of smallscale farmers, the majority of food producers, living mainly in rural areas. Smallholder farmers enter the lowest rung of RISDP decision-making at the national level. On the other hand, the SADC National Committees sit at the entry level, influence regional policies and link national strategies. Therefore, the paper recommends operationalising SADC's financing mechanisms, such as the SADC Agriculture Development Fund (ADF). And in this way, develop smallholder farmers and realise the RISDP vision: *"A peaceful, inclusive, middle to high income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic wellbeing, justice and freedom"*.

While most development funds to SADC and the agriculture sector come from the North or multilateral international organisations, this policy document proposes tapping into funds from the south. Organisations that fund programmes include the European Union (EU), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), World Food Programme (WFP) and the Department for International Development (DFID).

As of September 2021, the Regional Indicative Coordination Costs, National Indicative Costs, and Investment Costs were being finalised and submitted for approval by the SADC Council of Ministers (Council) in March 2022. But, again, operationalisation will only be possible if the total funding from the SADC Member States, as outlined in SADC Regional Resources Mobilisation Plan and the ADF, come to fruition. Without funding, SADC-RISP outcomes may not be realised.

This policy document provides a brief snapshot of SADC, focusing on the economy and food security, the SADC RISDP outputs and concludes by offering policy recommendations.

2 SADC at a glance

With a population of 345.2 million people (2018) and growing at a rate of 2.5% per annum, the SADC region is increasingly developing into a vast market beyond Africa. The largest share of the SADC population live in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - 26.6%; followed by South Africa - 16.7%; and the United Republic of Tanzania - 15.7%. The gross domestic product (GDP) for the SADC region stood at \$721.3 billion in 2018, growing at 1.8% per annum (SADC Statistical Report of 2018).

A scenario study by SADC in 2021 on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the Region forecasted that direct and indirect impact could see a 6.4% decline in the regional GDP from 2019 to 2020. In comparison, the 2021 GDP is expected to recover, although 4.9% below its 2019 value. However, there are worse affected Member States forecasted to lose more than 4% of GDP relative to 2019 levels. These states include Angola, Botswana, Comoros, eSwatini, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles. On the other hand, the least affected countries include DRC, Mozambique, and Zambia. In addition, inflation averages between 12.2% to 9.4% between 2020 and 2021 (SADC 2021, unpublished).

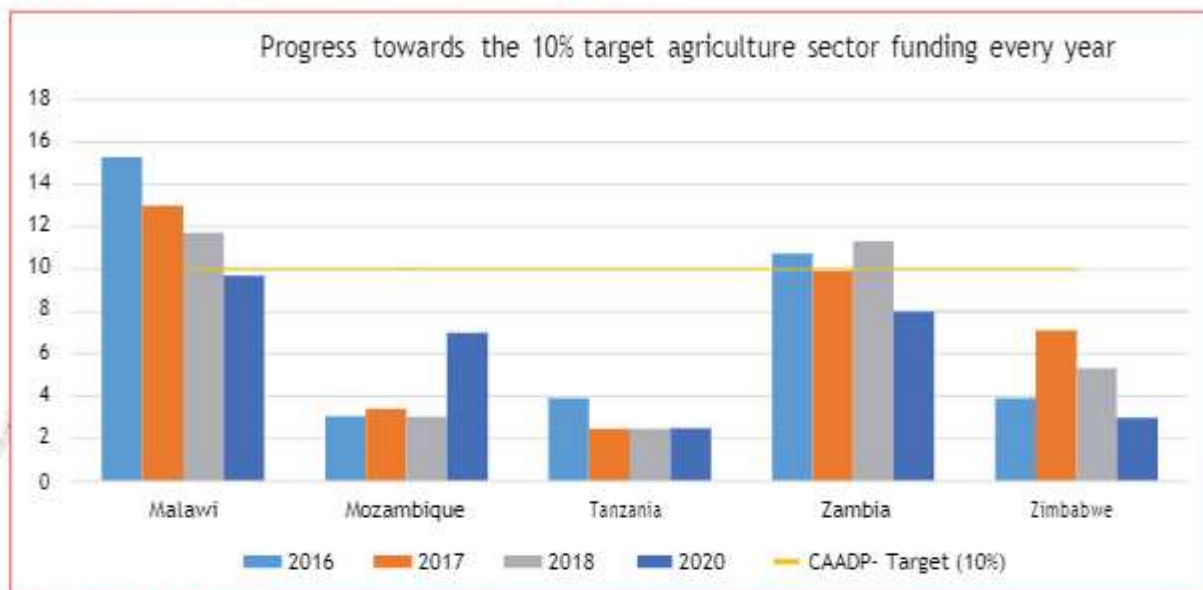
- **Food insecurity** poses development challenges. It is estimated **50.6 million people** to be food insecure in 2021 from ten of the 16 SADC Member States (excluding Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles). This figure is a 5.8% increase from 2020 and 52.3% above the 5-year average (SADC 2021). Furthermore, since El Niño, 2015, the Region has continued to suffer from extreme weather, including waves of droughts, floods, and cyclones, impacting food and nutrition insecurity. Current data show food insecurity levels are alarming for Angola (6 Million¹), Malawi (3.6 million²) and Namibia (428,000³). As a result, the total food insecure population in SADC, standing at 50.6 million, may increase (excluding Comoros, Seychelles, and Mauritius) (SADC 2021).
- **Child Malnutrition:** About **19 million children are unhealthy and growth stunted**. Child malnutrition is a concern. Every Member State has a prevalence of **stunting**, classified as high or very high by the World Health Organisation. Malnutrition occurs when the body receives insufficient nutrients for growth. As a result, children may suffer from **stunting**, defined as *low height-for-age*, or **Wasting** - low weight-for-height. **Hidden hunger** is the presence of multiple micro minerals deficiencies brought on by an energy-dense but nutrient-deficient diet. The data also show an increasing number of children and young people who are overweight or affected by obesity. There was a 2.2% reduction in the number of children treated for acute malnutrition between 2019 and 2020 (SADC 2021). However, while population growth has increased, the proportion of stunted children has declined and remains unchanged over the last 20 years. Despite the decline, SADC's global target of a 50% reduction in the number of stunted children remains elusive.
- **Many children suffer from malnutrition:** Cereal-based diets are predominant across the Region, limiting diet diversity and increasing the risk of micronutrient deficiencies. The diets are bereft of vital micronutrients such as vitamin A, zinc, iron, folate and iodine. In **seven Member States**, the number of children under five considered **too-thin for their height** - the wasting rate was **5% in 2019**. On the other hand, the Region also suffers from a prevalence of overweight and **obese people**, primarily in Botswana, Comoros, Seychelles and South Africa.
- **Public investment in agriculture** generally remains below the recommended target, particularly the allocation of 10% of the national budget to agriculture, as set out in the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth. Malawi and Zambia achieved the target over time. However, while the allocations were high in Malawi and Zambia, this trend declined. (See Figure 3)

1 <https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/end-cattle-s-paradise-severe-drought-and-food-insecurity-southern-angola>

2 <https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawi-ipo-acute-food-insecurity-analysis-july-2021-march-2022-issued-august-2021>

3 <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1152879/?iso3=NAM>

Figure 3: Progress towards the Malabo Declaration's 10% target

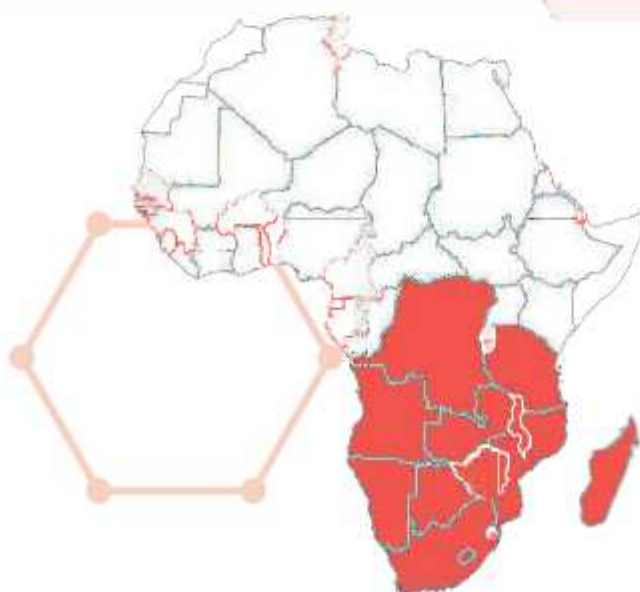


Source: ReSAKSS (2021)

Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania spend under 4% of their total annual budgets on agriculture, while Zimbabwe is generally above 5%. There remains an urgent need to increase public agriculture financing momentum to achieve the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and poverty-related targets.

It is also important to note that funding in the agriculture sector is often not targeted to areas with the highest returns on investment. The recurrent expenditure is usually higher than the development expenditure, contrary to the requirements for long-term sectoral growth. For example, Dr Greenwell Matchaya's (2020) studies showed a bias for investments in the crops sub-sector, with 60-80% of the agricultural budget ending in the crops subsection on average per year between 1990 - 2018. (Matchaya, a senior researcher, is part of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research)

The second subsector with a larger share was the forestry sector. Aquaculture was the least area of focus, which may have nutritional implications. Finally, an economic function with the most expenditure was subsidies, while Research and Development (R&D) and extension services development appear to be the least favoured economic functions outcomes (Matchaya, 2020). Such intra-sectoral allocations undermine productivity and livelihoods.





The SADC RISDP 2020-2030

The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30 is a 10-year strategic plan that guides the regional integration agenda. It encompasses national, regional and global arrangements that provide a mechanism for achieving the SADC Vision 2050.

The SADC Vision 2050 is grounded on SADC's original vision of "a common culture, a future in a regional community that will ensure economic wellbeing, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the peoples of Southern Africa". By 2050, SADC envisions a peaceful, inclusive, middle to high income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic wellbeing, justice and freedom.

The RISDP 2020-30 foundation builds on peace, security and good governance.

The six strategic priorities cover three pillars, several key cross-cutting issues and mechanisms for the strategic management of the RISDP. In each of the priority areas, the RISDP 2020-30 provides strategic objectives, outcomes and key interventions that, if implemented and met, will further deepen regional integration. It also incorporates the African Union's (AU) aspirations to harmonise SADC's essential strategic needs with the continent's. Furthermore, through inclusive implementation arrangements, the RISDP seeks to contribute to the realisation of a high-quality standard of living for all SADC citizens.

To promote peace and security, SADC undertakes to:

- (a) Enhance early warning systems capable of tracking and monitoring political, security and socio-economic threats; conflict prevention, management, and resolution mechanisms.
- (b) Strengthen political cooperation; enhance democracy, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, and human security.
- (c) Enhance collective defence and security system capabilities of safeguarding regional territorial integrity.

The RISDP 2020-30 - three pillars (SADC 2020):

1. Industrial Development and Market Integration.
2. Infrastructure Development in support of Industrialisation and Regional Integration.
3. Social and Human Capital Development.

Pillar 1: Industrial Development and Market Integration

Pillar one focuses on stabilising the Region's market via industrial development and integration. The plan is to increase citizens access to opportunities from programmes like the AU's Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA). Other programmes include the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), African Mining Vision (AMV), Boosting Intra African Trade (BIAT) and the CAADP. In addition, the plan ensures integration into the broader African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) (SADC 2020).

SADC RISDP objectives are to realise the followings:

1. An industrialised regional economy based on a competitive and facilitative environment includes infrastructure and skills and sustainably exploits natural resources by leveraging science, technology, and innovation;
2. A transformed agricultural sector that practices sustainable management of the environment and its natural resources;
3. An interconnected, integrated competitive Blue, Green and Circular Economies, sustainably developed for the benefit of all SADC citizens;
4. Regional market integration and connection with continental and global markets;
5. Financial market integration, monetary cooperation and investment;
6. Macro-economic stability and convergence;

Pillar 2: Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration

This pillar seeks to bring efficient and effective, technologically-driven cross-border infrastructure services and networks. Furthermore, it aims to support and facilitate deeper regional integration.

SADC RISDP objectives are to:

1. Increase interconnectivity, integrated infrastructure and networks;
2. Improve capacity for conceptualising, design, construction, maintenance and operation of regional infrastructure and services;
3. Increase access to affordable infrastructure and services;

Pillar 3: Social and Human Capital Development

This pillar seeks to achieve a high quality of life: a well-educated citizenry enjoying long, healthy and productive lives that reinforce the link between economic growth and sustainable human development. Further, to end poverty in all its forms.

SADC RISDP objectives aim to:

1. Strengthen and harmonise regional health systems. To provide standardised and accessible health services to all. Capacity to address threats caused by pandemics;
2. Improve food and nutrition security for the socio-economic wellbeing of citizens;
3. Increase access to quality and relevant education. Foster skills development, especially in science and technology;
4. Increase job creation and work opportunities for total productive employment;
5. Enhance the people's living conditions by promoting sustainable cities in the Region;

Cross-cutting issues of *Gender, Youth, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management* are important components of Vision 2050. SADC aims to become a community where citizens are treated equally regardless of gender by undertaking an integrated approach that empowers youth.

SADC, therefore, undertakes to fulfil the cross-cutting issues of *Gender, Youth, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management*). It aims to:

- (a) Enhance gender equality, women empowerment and development and eliminate gender-based-violence (GBV);
- (b) Create a robust and responsive regional statistical system to underpin regional integration processes, including monitoring progress and its impact;
- (c) Improve youth empowerment and participation, and include people with disabilities in all aspects of social and economic development as well ensure the welfare of senior citizens;
- (d) Strengthen climate change, adaptation and mitigation;
- (e) Improve disaster risk management in support of regional resilience;
- (f) Ensure sustainable use and conservation of natural resources and effective management of the environment;
- (g) Increase access to quality HIV and AIDS services to establish an AIDS-free generation (SADC 2020);

4

SADC RISDP 2030 Implementation Matrix

SADC Vision 2050's mission statement and core guiding principles inform RISDP 2020-2030.

The implementation matrix embraces the *Theory of Change*. The *RISDP Results Chain* guides implementation goals and milestones and unpacks systems and transformative processes.

In addition, a SADC RISDP 2020-2030 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan is near completion. This system will periodically collect data to update outcome and impact indicator values in the RISDP Monitoring and Evaluation Result Framework. Consequently, implementing institutions, decision-makers, funding partners and citizens, including smallholder farmers, will be able to assess, review, revise and, where appropriate correct RISDP interventions. Thus proactively manage the envisaged development outcomes.

The RISDP 2020-30 provides strategic objectives, outcomes and critical interventions that, if implemented and met, will further deepen integration in SADC.

The Strategic Management of RISDP is important as it acknowledges that SADC needs to make some fundamental changes to achieve its regional integration agenda. The strategic management of components necessary to oversee the implementation of the RISDP includes the Legal, Policy and Institutional Framework, Sustainable Funding Strategy, M&E, Reporting, Communication, Visibility and Awareness mechanisms.

The SADC RISDP has 24 objectives: Seven (7) objectives focus on cross-cutting issues, five (5) are related to the social and human capital development pillar, and three (3) focus on infrastructure development in support of regional integration. In addition, six (6) focus on industrial development and regional market integration, while the remaining three (3) on peace, security and good governance. The strategy has 49 outcomes derived from these 24 objectives.

Although the Council adopted the RISDP 2020-30 Implementation Plan in August 2021, it must complete some steps to operationalise. In particular, as of October 2021, the Regional Indicative Coordination Costs, National Indicative Costs, and Investment Costs were finalised. These were to be submitted for consideration and approval by the Council in March 2022. However, the operationalisation of the SADC RISDP strategy will only be possible if the total funding from the SADC Member States, as outlined in the SADC Regional Resources Mobilisation Plan and the ADF, come to fruition. Without funding, many of the outcomes within the strategy may never be realised.

Once operationalised, the RISDP Outcome and Impact indicators measure progress into the SADC existing Online M&E system. The Member States and the Secretariat will ensure evidence-based reportage to inform decision-making, while mid-term evaluation will systematically and objectively assess progress towards achieving RISDP outcomes every five years. The final assessment will be in 2030. The responsibility of evaluation falls with the National Contact Persons (NCPs) in all the Member States. The National Member States and Civil Society Organisations and National Statistics Offices (NSOs). RISDP outcome reports will be produced every second year, while RISDP Impact Reports will be released every third year. SADC will facilitate the production of the reports with the full responsibility of the NCPs, Member States and NSOs.

The SADC's online M&E system will report and continually inform the Secretariat, Member States, and other stakeholders of the progress, challenges, and mitigation measures to achieve set outputs and targets.

5 Agriculture in the RISDP 2030

Agriculture is addressed in the **SADC Vision 2050**, which seeks to create an *industrialised and integrated community where citizens benefit from Intra-African Trade and CAADP opportunities*. Similarly, agriculture is a clear focus area of the SADC RISDP as per **Pillar 1: Industrial Development and Market Integration**. Other areas where agriculture is mentioned include **Pillar 1 - Strategic Objective 2: "A transformed agricultural sector that practices sustainable management of the environment and its natural resources"** by 2030. Transformation is envisaged through interventions to create a highly productive agricultural sector (Outcome 1) and improved and widened market access for agricultural and industrial products (Outcome 2).

Additionally, other areas of interest which contribute to the agriculture sector include:

- ❖ **Pillar 3 - Social and Human Capital Development - Strategic Objective 1:** Seeks to strengthen and harmonise Regional health and address threats caused by health pandemics. It includes addressing malnutrition as one of the critical concerns.
- ❖ **Pillar 3 - Cross-Cutting Issues on Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management:** To accelerate equal participation of men and women and youth development in socio-economic and political processes regionally. This section focuses on smallholder farmers as well.
- ❖ **Pillar 3 - Cross-Cutting Issues on Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management (c):** Seeks to improve empowerment and participation of young people and people with disabilities in socio-economic development and improve the welfare of senior citizens.
- ❖ **Pillar 3 - Cross-Cutting Issues on Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management (d):** Strengthened climate change adaptation and mitigation, enhancing resilience across all sectors, including agriculture.
- ❖ **Pillar 3 - Cross-Cutting Issues on Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management (e):** Improved regional resilience disaster risk management, covering regional programmes.

Table 1: Outcomes and Outputs of RISDP 2020-30, part of Pillar 1, III and Cross-Cutting Issues

Outcome	Outputs
Pillar 1: Industrial Development and Market Integration	
Strategic Objective 2: A Transformed Agricultural Sector that Practices Sustainable Management of the Environment and its Natural Resources	
Outcome 1: Enhanced Agricultural Productive Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) implemented and monitored ❖ Innovative agriculture production and agriculture products conservation technologies transferred to the Small Holder Agriculture Sector ❖ Regional and National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) for Food Security (FS) strengthened ❖ Regional and National Vulnerability Assessment for FS secured and strengthened ❖ Crop Production and Productivity in the Region increased ❖ Livestock Production and Productivity in the Region increased ❖ The use of research information and technologies for increased production, productivity and competitiveness promoted ❖ Conservation of Regional Plant Genetic Resources and their use for securing Food and Nutrition Security Promoted ❖ Conservation of Regional Animal Genetic Resources and their use for securing Food and Nutrition Security promoted ❖ Private sector participation and investment in implementing the RAP and RAIP promoted

Outcome 2: Improved and widened market access for agricultural products

- Competitiveness of **Agricultural products** enhanced to meet regional and international standards
- Trans-boundary movement, handling and use of **Genetically Modified and Living Modified organisms** harmonised

Pillar 3: Social and Human Capital Development

Strategic Objective 1: Strengthened and harmonised Regional health systems for the provision of standardised and accessible health services to all citizens and addressing threats caused by health pandemics

Outcome 2: Enhanced investment in nutrition to address all forms of malnutrition

- SADC Minimum Standards for Food Fortification (FF) Developed and domesticated in the Member States (MS)
- The FF regulatory monitoring and enforcement guidance framework operationalised in the Region
- Ensure regional technical regulation on marketing **breast milk substitutes (BMS)** domesticated.
- The Regional framework on improving **young children's diets** was developed and domesticated in the Member States.
- The regional **Nutrition Information System** guidance document developed and Domesticated by the Member States.
- The regional (costed) action plan addressed/implemented **overweight and obesity (2020- 2025)**
- The Member States capacitated on Nutrition in Emergency preparedness and response
- Regional guidance for **school health and nutrition** developed and implemented

Cross-Cutting Issues: Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Strategic objective 3: Improved youth empowerment and participation of young people and people with disabilities in social and economic aspects

Outcome 3: Enhanced welfare of Senior Citizens

- A regional repository on **indigenous and under-utilised nutritious foods** developed

Strategic objective 4: Strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation

Outcome 1: Enhanced sector-based approaches towards developing climate change resilience

- Climate Change adaptation and mitigation promoted in the Region

Strategic Objective 5: Improved disaster risk management in support of regional resilience

Outcome: A coordinated and effective response and recovery efforts to address the impact of Climate Change and natural disasters, pandemics, and migratory pests.

- Regional disaster response and recovery infrastructure to enhance climate change adaptation developed and implemented

Outcome 4:
Enhanced disaster risk management investments to facilitate climate adaptation and community resilience

- † Coordinated and adequately resourced **preparedness and response mechanisms** promoted
- † Innovative instruments and solutions in **disaster risk management practices and networks** developed
- † Policy frameworks for resettlement of persons displaced by **natural disasters** developed and implemented

Source: SADC RISDP 2020 – 2030

To achieve these outcomes in agriculture by 2030, the SADC aims to undertake the following interventions at different implementation levels (i.e. regional and national):

- (a) Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) and the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) implemented and monitored (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 1).
- (b) Private sector participation and investment in implementing and promoting the RAP and RAIP, with particular attention to formally and regularly engaging micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) throughout RAP implementation (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 1).
- (c) Implement and monitor regional crop and livestock development programmes, including regional strategies/guidelines to address inputs, transboundary crop/animal pests, diseases, and the AU Framework on Land Policy (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 1).
- (d) Share research, information, and best practices to upgrade agro-industrial production processes, improve quality, and modernise production systems (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 1).
- (e) Measures to help farmers adapt to and, where possible, mitigate climate change effects implemented.
- (f) **Further initiatives identified** - namely, a) *Sustainability Strategy for the Regional Plant and Animal Genetic Resource Centres*; b) *Strategies to reduce plant and animal genetic erosion*; c) *Harmonise at least one piece of legislation on access, and use of, plant genetic resources (PGR) and animal genetic resources (AnGR) in the Region*; and d) *Share PGR and AnGR knowledge and information with all Member States*; e) Engage with Interest groups with knowledge on indigenous and underutilised indigenous foods (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 2 and Cross-Cutting, Strategic Objective 3, Outcome 3).
- (g) Functionality and sustainability of **National Early Warning Systems** and **National Vulnerability Assessment Committees** for Food and Nutrition Security at national and regional levels strengthened (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 1).
- (h) Strategic programmes that enhance the competitiveness of SADC agricultural and industrial products, as per internationally acceptable standards and harmonisation of health standards, developed and strengthened (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 1).
- (i) **Regulatory frameworks** for the transboundary movement, handling, and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and living modified organisms (LMOs) were developed and implemented (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 2, Outcome 2).
- (j) **The Digitalisation of SADC Agriculture:** Using digital technologies, innovations, and data to transform business models and practices across the agricultural value chain and address bottlenecks. SADC must review and refocus development strategies using ICT as a catalyst for socio-economic development and prosperity to benefit from the new economy. SADC sees the deployment of innovative 4IR and Artificial Intelligence related technologies as an opportunity and speaks to the need for appropriate skills, including digital literacy (Pillar I, Strategic Objective 1, Outcome 3).

The emphasis on digitalisation includes the Enhancement of Skills Development for Regional Industrialisation. In addition, SADC plans to develop SADC citizens' digital skills to empower and benefit from the changing nature of work and the rise of the digital economy by leveraging infrastructure development. (Pillar III, Strategic Objective 3, Outcome 3).

Overall, while the SADC RISDP 2020-30 recognises agriculture as one of the most critical sectors for the Region, it must put more effort and drive the agriculture agenda to transform the sector to fulfil the Malabo Declaration commitments beyond 2025. Therefore, SADC must advocate its agenda across all levels; ensure visible, transparent processes and systems to gain the buy-in (from the private sector, development partners, donors and citizens) and active participation of smallholder farmers. By creating a conducive environment, smallholder farmers can undertake actions necessary to support agriculture activities, particularly at a national level. Therefore, strengthening the linkage of smallholder farmers between the SADC Secretariat and national Committees is a critical intervention to facilitate farmers' input in implementing the SADC RISDP.



President Lazarus Chakwera at the SADC Summit in Malawi – 2021

6

Expected Outputs and Benefits to Smallholder Farmers in SADC

The SADC RISDP 2020-30, implemented as planned, could contribute significantly to the Region's sustainable development. Improving food and nutrition security livelihoods can benefit smallholder farmers, who produce around 80% of food in each country, except for South Africa, which produces 95% of agricultural output (Pienaar and Traub, 2015).

Some of the benefits to be realised include:

(i) Increased participation of smallholder farmers in implementing and monitoring SADC RISDP from regional, national and district level

Among significant regional flagship programs, SADC RISDP-2030 expects to provide increased spaces for SADC citizens to be aware, participate, monitor and benefit from this regional strategic plan. In addition, the establishment of the SADC National Committees in all Member States will definitely increase the participation of farmers, NGOs, and the private sector in planning, implementation, and monitoring.

Together with the SNC, **we recommend:** SADC approve and operationalise the Joint Agriculture Sector Review (JASR) mechanism and the SADC Non-State Actor Regional Engagement Mechanism. This vital step will enhance the participation of farmers and non-state actors in policy processes, implementation and monitoring.

(ii) Funding agriculture through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF)

SADC plans to mobilise funding through the Regional Resource Mobilisation Framework and the ADF as a unique facility under the SADC Development Fund (SADC DF). It is within the SADC Treaty 1992 under Article 8 of the Agreement on the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional DF - based on Ministerial decision in 2017. Only seven SADC Member States (Angola, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, eSwatini, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) signed the DF's operationalisation agreement. However, by the end of 2017, they had deposited instruments of ratification with the Secretariat. As a result, Member States contributed an initial capitalisation of US\$120 million payable in equal instalments over a three-year commitment period starting from the 2017/2018 financial year.

These funding mechanisms would be beneficial as a source of capital for smallholder farmers' engagement at various value chain points. However, many smallholder farmers face liquidity constraints and are often rejected on the credit market even when organised in farmer groups.

Therefore, the **PSA alliance recommend:** A deliberate entry point within the fund earmarked for small and medium-scale farmers and farmers' groups to support them. As a result, a direct benefit will be recognised and realised.

(iii) Improved agricultural extension services at regional and national levels

According to the SADC RISDP, SADC will develop a Regional Agricultural Development Advisory and Extension Strategy to govern matters of extension development. Improved agricultural extension services at regional and national levels would directly benefit women in agriculture who face challenges accessing information and finances to improve crop production.

At present, the state of extension services lacks sufficient support. Therefore, governments need to re-commit to allocating 10% of their annual budgets to agriculture. This increase would further support ministries to assign sufficient extension officers and be well-equipped to service smallholder farmers. The second Malabo Biennial Review Report showed the 2019 review period, in which the milestone for the extension indicator was 100%, the proportion of farmers having access to agricultural advisory services was **72% in Malawi; 8% in Mozambique; 80% in the United Republic of Tanzania (URT); 69% in Zambia and 100% in Zimbabwe.**

Some countries made significant progress in revising their national policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure the inclusion of extension and advisory support to smallholder farmers and the revision and development of the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs). Malawi, the URT, Zambia and Zimbabwe are on the right path; however, some (including Mozambique) remain far below the SADC's standards. Zambia and Zimbabwe, for instance, have national agricultural extension and advisory services strategies. The URT, since 2007, implemented 'Extension Communication Guidelines' for extension services for each of their main crops. Currently, the URT is finalising harmonised extension services guidelines. Zimbabwe's strategy is now under review.

(iv) Enhanced sector-based approaches towards developing climate change resilience

Within SADC RISDP scope of implementation, SADC has committed to:

- † Developing a regional irrigation policy to facilitate adaptation to climate change;
- † Establish New & Existing Technology Innovations and Management Practices developed and promoted by Agriculture and Research for Development (AR4D) institutions for increased production and productivity, climate change and nutrition-sensitive agriculture by 2030;
- † Revise SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan - all Member States operationalise by 2027;
- † Promote Climate Change adaptation and mitigation in the Region through two projects funded by the EU - Global Climate Change Alliance Plus for SADC Programme on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption (GCCA+) and SADC's Climate Change Adaption for the Water Sector Strategy (SCCAW/SS) implemented by 2029;

The SADC RISDP 2020-30 seeks to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. For example, under Cross-Cutting Issues, Strategic Objective four (4) aims to achieve "strengthened climate change adaptation and mitigation." It envisages two outcomes: *enhanced sector-based approaches towards developing climate change resilience and reduced carbon footprint in the Region*. Once completed, these outcomes would also benefit smallholder farmers who are often the most impacted by climate change.

(v) Enhanced farmer-managed seed systems

The SADC will also develop and implement regional frameworks to facilitate access and availability of quality inputs and increase efforts towards developing technologies to address crop sector challenges and enhance improved production and productivity.

The SADC RISDP promotes the participation of smallholder farmers in creating gene-banks and general farmer-managed seed systems as effective strategies for climate change resilience and adaptation. Including smallholder farmers at the centre of seed system management is essential because they are the custodians of local genetic materials. Although not necessarily higher yielding than hybrids, these are pests and disease resistant, generally resilient to climate. Moreover, farmers can easily use the farm-saved seed for many years without loss of yield potential, unlike hybrids. Moreover, local seeds offer significant adaptation and resistance to diseases and pests, especially in the face of climate change. Therefore, the plans outlined in the SADC RISDP (Pillar 1, Strategic Objective 2) promote conservation of such material in gene-banks at the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) in Lusaka, Zambia.

Smallholder farmers benefit in various ways: For instance, users in gene banks collect accessions, Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTAs). These SMTAs specify ploughing back benefits derived from using the seeds in profit-making ventures.

A strategy developed for the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) will ensure and promote food and nutrition security. Seed systems are well managed and governed by a legal instrument (operationalising the regional animal genetic resources gene-bank), including farmers' rights. Farmers who participate in gene bank maintenance should be rewarded monetarily as an incentive and sustainability mechanism. It should also be considered community-owned, and proceeds should serve community interests.

(vi) Promotion of agroecological practices (regenerative agriculture)

To enhance nutrition and food security, SADC RISDP also seeks to promote:

- † Sustainable farming practices;
- † Agroecological conservation practices, including conservation farming and agroforestry;
- † Fish farming, beekeeping; Biodiversity;

These are part of the planned regional activities over the next ten years. Continuous advocacy and resources are required to ensure and promote various farming practices.

(vii) Gender in agriculture

The SADC RISDP aims to benefit women in agriculture, and rural development, empower women economically to access opportunities. For example, under Cross-Cutting Issues, the first strategic objective is "enhanced gender equality, women empowerment and development and elimination of GBV".

The strategic objective outcomes include:

- (i) Increased participation of women in regional development; enhanced equal access to opportunities and gender parity;
- (ii) Strengthened gender mainstreaming at national and regional levels
- (iii) Enhance elimination of GBV;

A regional strategy for youth and women in rural employment and agripreneurship is being developed. It includes a Gender Action Plan for the SADC Strategy on Financial Inclusion and Small Medium Enterprises Access to Finance and its implementation. Further, an Action Plan to Mainstream and Empower Gender and Youth in Infrastructure. For these interventions to benefit women, it would be useful to ensure the M&E plan for the SADC RISDP in this area has express targets and progress indicators.



SADC Summit 2021



SADCRISDP2030–ItsImplementationStructure, Funding, Reporting, and Participation

To realise RISDP outcomes, SADC plans to engage in resource mobilisation based on the SADC Resource Mobilisation Framework and RDF. The ADF takes prominence in this framework. The implementation of the RISDP 2020-30 rests on SADC's Member States operationalisation - by primarily committing domestic resources. Currently, SADC Member States dedicate and disburse approximately USD\$45 million annually towards SADC action plans.

To ensure efficiency, SADC plans to direct all resources to the agreed priorities and advise international cooperating partners to align their assistance and development cooperation agreements to the RISDP priorities.

SADC's comprehensive 5-year medium-term strategy is crucial to RISDP implementation because it provides an opportunity to learn and adjust plans as needed. Similarly, SADC's Annual Operational Plans will outline activities, financial and human resources, and organisational requirements to guide implementation. Furthermore, it outlines activities the Member States fund and plans to support its partners. In addition, the RISDP will benefit from periodic institutional reviews (refer to section 4 on reporting) to respond better to the dynamics of a changing world and the interests of the Region's diverse constituencies.

The success of the RISDP 2020-30 depends on the willingness of the SADC leaders to implement.

Farmers and farmers' associations can monitor and evaluate the RISDP 2020-30 through SADC National Committees as critical stakeholders in the national agricultural sector. The SNC sit in the Ministries of Forestry in Malawi, led by Dr Luckie Sikwese, in Tanzania by Ambassador Agnes Kayola and in Zambia by Isabelle Lemba.

The SNC in Mozambique sits in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation led by Ambassador Carol Manuel Rodrigues Da Costa. In Zimbabwe, the SNC is in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade led by Ambassador Raphael Faranisi.

Once operational, the SADC National Committees will ensure the SADC RISDP development agenda remains on the national development planning agenda. Moreover, farmers' associations will become active members at the national committee level. Currently, the SADC National Committees exist in principle, but in most Member States, they are not functional. Therefore, advocacy and continuous dialogues between SADC Secretariat and all individual Member States (16) are vital to ensure the SADC National Committees are fully operational by 2026. Therefore, Member States need to implement the RISDP. Furthermore, smallholder farmers should engage with their national committees on agriculture and foreign affairs, the SADC office-desk and SADC National Committees for immediate participation and support and monitor RISDP implementation.

8 Policy Recommendations

The SADC RISDP 2030 is an ambitious plan, and its success in benefiting smallholder farmers depends on many factors. However, the following recommendation, if implemented, will positively impact smallholder farmers for agriculture transformation in the region.

The following recommendations call for SADC and its Member States to:

- (i) Entrench public social accountability and transparency culture. To this extent, planning, implementation, and monitoring must involve at all levels non-state actors, including smallholder farmers, civil society organisations, media and the private sector, among others. Further, implement a SADC level JASR to ensure and achieve goals and outcomes at national and regional levels.
- (ii) Commit domestic resources towards funding interventions included in the SADC RISDP while ensuring that a more significant share of those resources reaches smallholder farmers. The success of the SADC RISDP depends on financing. ICPs should commit funding towards financing the SADC RISDP. Further, to operationalise the SADC Resource Mobilisation Plan, the RDF and the ADF must come to fruition. The SADC Member States must ensure they fulfil the Malabo goal by investing 10% of the domestic budget in the agriculture sector.
- (iii) Ensure women benefit from the RISDP and plan, implement, and monitor meetings at national levels. Women should have strong representation at the SADC National Committees. While the focus on women empowerment is good, its implementation must be monitored and reported regularly.
- (iv) Ensure youth representation from planning and implementation to monitoring at national levels and SADC National Committees. While the focus on youth empowerment is good, M&E reportage regularly reported will ensure youth benefit.
- (v) Measure the SADC RISDP's success at the local level. Further, implementing the RISDP at the national level by channelling funds to improve agriculture extension services for women smallholder farmers ensures total participation in agricultural activities. In addition, it promotes ownership of land and access to available technologies and market information.
- (vi) Ensure that national extension policies emphasise digital technology for smallholder farmers in agriculture and market information. Adopting gender and youth access to land use/ownership and agroecology speeds up women and youth empowerment regionally.
- (vii) Support the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) and support the development and strengthening of local seed management by smallholder farmers. Community-based seed systems protect the genetic pool and empower smallholder farmers. Moreover, supporting smallholder farmers in local seed management enhances dietary diversity to improve nutrition, facilitates climate change adaptation, enhances seed sovereignty and regional self-sufficiency.
- (viii) Implement the activities planned for enhancing people's adaptation to climate change, especially among smallholder farmers within RISDP by 2030. It provides climate change proof technologies at a country level and invests in upscaling smallholder farmers' skills.
- (ix) Increase R&D funding. Funding in R&D remains below the AU's 1% of GDP target (2006 Khartoum Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology). However, without research - and against the backdrop of climate change and massive population growth - the future of African agriculture is not guaranteed.

References

- (i) **AUC (African Union Commission) (2020)**. Biennial Report to the AU Assembly on implementing the June 2014 Malabo Declaration. The 2019 report to the January 2020 Assembly. Addis Ababa: AUC.
- (ii) **Building Back Better - Ensuring Social Accountability in Southern Africa's Development: A Regional Dialogue for Non-State Actors on the SADC RISDP 2020-30 and its Draft Implementation Plan**. 29-30 June 2021.
- (iii) **Matchaya, 2020**. Public spending on agriculture in Southern Africa: Sectoral and intra-sectoral impact and policy implications. *Journal of policy modelling* **Volume 42, Issue 6**, November-December 2020, Pages 1228-1247 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0161893820300612>.
- (iv) **Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance, 2020**. PSA Policy Brief. Southern Africa on the Brink of Famine? Recovery from food crisis through resilient, accountable and gender-responsive agricultural development. <http://copsam.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/PSA-Food-Crisis-Policy-Brief-Sept-2020-Final.pdf>.
- (v) **Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance, 2019**. "PSA Policy Brief on Social Accountability of FISPs in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia." http://copsam.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/SAiAIDS_PSA_PoLicyBrief_FISPs_FINAL.pdf Pienaar, L and Lulama N. Traub. 2015. Understanding the smallholder farmer in South Africa: Towards a sustainable livelihoods classification. *International Conference of Agriculture Economists*.
- (vi) **ReSAKSS 2021**. CAADP core indicators. Kigali. www.resakss.org
- (vii) **SADC 2021** "SADC Synthesis Report on the state of food and nutrition security and vulnerability in Southern Africa - 2021" Gaborone, Botswana. <https://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/sadc-release-synthesis-report-state-food-and-nutrition-security-region/>.
- (viii) **SADC 2021** (unpublished). Scenario Planning on the Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 in the SADC Region.
- (ix) **SADC 2020**. SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030. August 2020.
- (x) **SADC 2018**. Statistical Report.
- (xi) **Sguazzin, A. (2020)**, *Zimbabwe's Currency Plans Upended as it Fights on Two Fronts*. In <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-20/zimbabwe-s-currency-plans-upended-as-it-fights-on-two-fronts>.
- (xii) **Raidimi and Kabiti, 2017**. Agricultural extension, research, and development for increased food security: the need for Public-Private Sector Partnerships in South Africa. *South African Journal of Agricultural Extension*, Vol. 45, No. 1, 2017: 49 - 63. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319421117_Agricultural_extension_research_and_development_for_increased_food_security_the_need_for_public-private_sector_partnerships_in_South_Africa.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to express our gratitude to those who contributed to this policy brief, in particular: Julie Middleton, Stella Henry, Irene Ngao, Emmanuel J. Alphonse, and Joseph Mzinga.

We appreciate all the advice and comments provided during consultations with colleagues from ActionAid Malawi, ActionAid Mozambique, ActionAid Tanzania, ActionAid Zambia and ActionAid Zimbabwe, as well as the Southern Africa Trust, Eastern and Southern Africa Smallholder Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), SADC Council of NGOs, SADC Parliamentary Forum.

We are thankful for the guidance and generous support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Southern Africa.



The Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance is a consortium of organisations working to strengthen social accountability in health and agriculture across Southern Africa. The consortium consists of ActionAid, PSAM - Public Service Accountability Monitor of Rhodes University, SAfAIDS, and ESAFF - Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum.

The Swiss Agency supports the PSA Alliance for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

For more information, visit <http://copsam.com/psa/> or email psaalliance@actionaid.org.

To follow the PSA Alliance on Twitter or Facebook – see [@PSAAlliance](#).

